THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
TO THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DEBEN
FOR THE YEAR
1947.

The Chairman,
and Members of the Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1947 on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health.

Judged by the statistical data at our disposal the health of the community was exceptionally good throughout the year.

It would seem reasonable to suppose that this was due, in part at least, to the low humidity with long hours of sunshine which were an outstanding feature of the year.

The general sanitary state of the district is on the whole satisfactory. Water supplies in the more isolated parishes are a problem, to which the only adequate answer is a long term scheme for mains extension. The projected extension of the mains to the North East area of the district should go far toward supplying an area which is at present poorly provided with water.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Jenkinson, and his staff for their help and co-operation.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
C.H. IMRIE.
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health.

C.M. Whiteford, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (until his death in June).
C.H. Imrie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (from 1st July).

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. D. Jenkinson, M.I.Mun.E., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors.

Mr. R. Bedford, C.R.S.I.
Mr. A. Warrander, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Certificated Food Inspector)

S T A T I S T I C S.

General Statistics.

Area of District in acres	109976
Population (Registrar General's Estimate for Mid 1947)	24410
Inhabited Houses at 31.12.47.	7876
Rateable value of District	£112225
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£457.843

Vital Statistics.

Live Births:

	Total	Male	Female	Birth rate per 1000 population.
Legitimate	446	254	192	19.17
Illegitimate	22	8	14	

Birth rate per 1000 population. England and Wales - 20.5

Stillbirths:

	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1000 total Live and Still Births.
Legitimate	11	7	4	22.9
Illegitimate	-	-	-	

Still Birth Rate per 1000 population - 0.45
England and Wales - 0.5

Deaths:

Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1000 population
310	161	149	12.7

Death rate England and Wales - 12.0

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.		Rate per 1000 Total Births
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
Other Maternal causes	1	2.13

Death rates of Infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1000 live births	25.6
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate births	24.6
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births	45.4

Other Deaths.

Number of deaths from Cancer (all ages)	51
" " " " Measles (All ages)	Nil
" " " " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " " " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

1. Laboratory.

Bacteriological investigations, including those of water samples, are carried out at the County Laboratory, Bond Street, Ipswich.

Chemical water analysis is performed by the Public Analyst, Norwich.

2. Ambulance.

Ambulances stationed at Ipswich, Woodbridge, Framlingham and Felixstowe are available for non-infectious cases.

Infectious disease cases are handled by an Ambulance from the Isolation Hospital, Ipswich.

3. County Services.

Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease Schemes and School Health Services, are the responsibility of the East Suffolk County Council.

4. Disinfestation.

No cases of infestation were reported during the year.

Arrangements for dealing with infestation are as follows:-

Premises. Advice and assistance can be obtained on application to the Council's Officers.

Persons. Admission to hospital for treatment can be arranged if necessary.

Scabies. Three households were treated by Benzyl Benzoate emulsion.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

See Table I.

Infectious disease of all forms showed a low rate of incidence during 1947. In 1946 Measles was fairly prevalent, so it was to be expected that in 1947 we might escape lightly from this infection. This hope was justified when a total of only 34 cases were notified during the year.

A drop was also noticeable in Whooping Cough which produced 50 cases as compared with 88 the previous year.

There were 4 cases of Diphtheria. All were adults who had not been immunised. There were no deaths.

The Autumnal Poliomyelitis outbreak throughout the country produced a crop of suspected cases in the district. Only two cases however was the diagnosis confirmed and both recovered.

In December an outbreak of Paratyphoid B. infection occurred. This was traced to a source outside the district, in Ipswich, the

vehicle of spread being artificial cream. Up to the end of the year we had 4 cases which recovered completely. There were no secondary cases.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation was carried out at Child Welfare Centres and Schools in the district, Alum Precipitated Toxoid being the agent employed. During the year the following groups were immunised:-

Age:	0 to 4 years	227
	5 to 15 years	104

"Booster" doses for School children who had been immunised in infancy were given to 156 children.

Tuberculosis.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis register has not altered materially since last year. For age and sex distribution of new cases and deaths see Table 2.

WATER SUPPLIES.

1. The public Water Supply in the District is derived from bores into the chalk, and from Springs. The quality is good but the water is rather hard and has a high iron content.

2. In quantity the water is satisfactory and should permit of considerable future extension of the piped supply.

3. A Trial Bore was sunk in the Parish of Pettistree and the water tapped was satisfactory in quality. The yield is estimated to be ample for the projected mains extension in the North East area of the district.

4. Of the 64 inhabited parishes in this district, 32 have piped water. In the remainder shallow wells are the chief source of supply. See Table 3.

5. No evidence of contamination of the piped supply has been detected. Samples from wells and private bores have been examined by the bacteriologist with the following results.

Number of Samples taken		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Local Authority Mains -	9	9	-
Other Sources	94	20	74

In all cases where the water was reported to be unsatisfactory the householders were advised and the landlord was required to clean out the well. Where a piped supply is within reach an offer of connection to the Council's mains is made.

SEWAGE.

There has been no change in the arrangements for sewage and refuse disposal. Tenders, however, have been received for work on a Drainage Scheme at Wickham Market.

ICE CREAM.

Three premises in the district are registered under the Regulations for the Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream. They have been inspected regularly.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Number of Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by this authority (i.e. those without mechanical power) 14

   Inspections of above factories 17

2. Number of Factories in which Section 7 is to be enforced (i.e. those with mechanical power) 37

   Inspections of above factories 26

3. Defects - A total of 6 cases of defect were found and these were remedied.

CI/PH.
Sept. 1948.

TABLE I.

	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	Total	Hospital Admission.	Died
easles	1	6	6	12	1	4	4	-	-	34	-	-
hooping Cough	2	17	13	18	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-
neumonia	1	2	2	1	-	3	9	3	8	29	-	8
carlet Fever	-	-	3	6	3	2	1	-	-	15	-	-
iphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	4	4	-
uerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
phthalmia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
rysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	1	7	-	-
ysentery	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
nf. Jaundice	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	1	2	10	-	-
oliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	2	-
aratyphoid	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	4	4	-
erebro-Spinal eningitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2	-

TABLE II.

Cases added to Register 34

Cases removed from Register . . . . . 31 (Died 13.
(Other reasons
for removal - 18.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
ge Groups:								
0-								
1-								
5-			1					
10-		3	3	1				
15-	2				1			
20-	1	2	1		1			
25-		2	2		2	1		
35-	3	1		2	3	1		
45-	2	4						
55-		1				1		
65-	2	1			2			1
	10	14	7	3	9	3	-	1

TABLE III.

WATER SUPPLIES FROM PUBLIC MAINS.

Parish	Direct to Houses	By Standpipe	Farms supplied by Meter
Boulge	4	10	1
Bredfield	28	43	9
Bromeswell	8	-	1
Bucklesham	2	-	-
Burgh	13	21	6
Charsfield	15	39	8
Clopton	16	28	12
Culpho	-	-	1
Dallinghoo	10	12	10
Debach	13	9	3
Foxhall	8	-	-
Grundisburgh	83	47	9
Hasketon	23	20	8
Kesgrave	370	1	8
Kirton	47	-	-
Martlesham	20	2	1
Melton	275	15	-
Nacton	150	-	-
Newbourne	1	-	-
Otley	51	71	13
Pettistree	10	2	4
Playford	1	-	-
Purdis Farm	46	-	-
Rushmere	412	12	5
Swilland	10	28	4
Trimley St. Martin	189	-	-
Trimley St. Mary	208	-	-
Tuddenham	19	23	5
Ufford	35	11	2
Westerfield	1	2	-
Wickham Market	118	65	5
Witnesham	52	41	9